Due to inadequate availability of gas, there is a gap between demand and supply of gas for fertilizer sector. For meeting the shortfall of gas for the fertilizer industry, the Department of Fertilizers is in constant interaction with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and prospective suppliers of natural gas and LNG.

Objection by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on price control of medicines

2294.' SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has opposed the Department of Chemicals' move to bring 663 formulations under price control as part of National Pharmaceutical Policy;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons cited by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(c) whether Government have prepared any plan to bridge the gap in views between the two Ministries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when the issue would be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission as well as feedback received from other stakeholders the Government have formulated a Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 which alongwith a draft Cabinet Note has been circulated to various Ministries/Departments seeking their comments. Comments of many of these Ministries/ Departments including Ministry of Commerce and Industry have been received and are being examined to make necessary modifications in the Policy wherever deemed justified. On finalisation of the draft policy, it would be placed before the Cabinet for approval at an early date.